obedience he could most implicitly rely; but Arthur Henderson, powerful in controlling the Party machine, insisted on having it for himself.

Henderson and MacDonald never got on well together. Their natures were antipathetic. Henderson, a regular chapel-goer and occasional lay-preacher, extremely respectable, with bowler hat and umbrella, was suspicious of MacDonald's marked liking for the company of his social superiors; MacDonald considered Henderson commonplace and lower middle class.[10] They represented two elements in the Labour Party whose incompatibility has been perhaps its greatest weakness—the urge on the part of prudent, industrious manual workers to improve their conditions, and the romantic discontent of would-be, and sometimes actual, aristocrats. Trade Unionism and the Co-operative Movement are characteristic products of the former; National Labour and the Left Book Club, of the latter. Henderson was never a revolutionary; but MacDonald, like Hitler and Mussolini and Pilsudski, only ceased to be a sort of revolutionary when he had become accepted by his opponents as their ostensible leader.

Though MacDonald was not technically Foreign Secretary, it was in the role of appeaser of international conflicts and champion of oppressed peoples that he most fancied himself. In this he was true to type. The romantic idealist invariably turns his eyes abroad. It is so much easier and more exciting to side with

[10] Though the lower middle class is the butt alike of the revolutionary and tlie reactionary, both of whom pride themselves on admiring aristocrats and peasants or proletarians, but nothing in between, politicians who display

integrity usually belong, like Henderson and Mr. Lansbury, to this class.
Their much ridiculed respectability prevents them from being easily cor-
rupted by flattery or easily bought; their values may be commonplace, but
at least they make some attempt to observe them. It is a MacDonald with
his Highlander-aristocratic pretensions ('The MacDonalds were a masterful
lot... a wild self-willed masterful lot,* as he puts it in *At Home and Abroad,*
a collection of essays), a Thomas conscientiously dropping his h's, a Maxton.
with flashing eyes and floating hair, who are most liked—that is, least feared,
by their political adversaries.